

WEBSTER'S II
New Riverside
University
Dictionary

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Manufactured in the United States of America

metal pot that uses steam under pressure to cook food quickly. 2. A position of SEAT.
or measuring fluid pressure. 2. A of explosions.
it exerts pressure to promote or

number of areas on the body where
it applying pressure to the artery
controlling bleeding.
in high-altitude aircraft or in
pressure conditions.

pressure suit

-izing, -izes. 1. To maintain
as an aircraft or submarine.
or than normal pressure. 3. To
-tion n. —presurizer n.
ment or operation of a print-
printing press.

preste, priest < Ofr. < LLat.
ary medieval Christian priest
tian kingdom in the Far East

shon) n. [Fr. < prestidigitator
-resto < LLat. praestus < Lat.
r.] Manual dexterity in the
—prestidigitator n.
ion < Lat. prestigiae, tricks <
re + stringere, to bind.]
ed through success, renown,
miration in a group. —pres-

Having prestige: ESTEEMED.
ness n.
adj. [Ital., superl. of presto, im-
ble. —Used as a direction.

Lat. praestus, quick < Lat.
po. —Used as a direction.

ring, -somes. [ME presu-
-to < Lat. praestus < Lat.
-summe, to anticipate: praes-
-summe to be true without
ve. 3. To engage oneself in
presumed to invite them-
selves: take liberties. 2. To
<Don't presume on their
s) adj. —presumably
-presumer n.
g or displaying arrogant
m'ingly adv.
E presumption < Ofr. <
ne.] 1. Boldly arrogant or
act of accepting as true.
evidence. 3. A condition
<An inference as to the
on probable reasoning in
proof.
riding a reasonable basis
lity or presumption < An
v.

[ME < Ofr. presump-
io, presumption.] Being
—presumptuously

ing, -poses. 1. To as-
-r involve necessarily as
on (<supra-zish'on) n.
-deductions <pretax

ended for preadolescent
preadolescent child.

pretence (prē'tēns, pri'tēns) n. Chiefly Brit. var. of PRETENSE.
pretend (prē'tēnd) v. -tended, -tending, -tends. [ME preten-
den < Lat. praetendere: praee, in front + tendere, to extend.] —vt.
1. To affect; feign. 2. To allege or claim insincerely or falsely: PRO-
upon oneself: VENTURE <I cannot pretend to approve of what you
did.> —vi. 1. To feign an action or character, as in play. 2. To put
forward a claim.

pretended (prē'tēnd'id) adj. 1. Reputed or asserted: ALLEGED.
2. False: feigned. —pretendedly adv.
pretender (prē'tēnd'ər) n. 1. One who simulates, pretends, or al-
leges falsely: HYPOCRITE. 2. a. One who sets forth a claim. b. A
claimant to a throne.

pretense (prē'tēns, pri'tēns) n. [ME < AN, ult. < Lat. praeten-
dere, to pretend.] 1. A false appearance or action designed to deceive.
2. A false or studied show: AFFECTATION. 3. A false reason or excuse:
PRETEXT. 4. Something imagined or pretended: MAKE-BELIEVE.
5. Mere show without reality: SHAM. 6. A right asserted with or with-
out foundation: CLAIM. 7. Ostentation: pretentiousness.

pretension (prē'tēn'shən) n. 1. A specious allegation: PRETEXT.
2. A claim to something, as a right or privilege. 3. Advancement of a
claim. 4. PRETENSE. 7.

pretentious (prē'tēn'shəs) adj. 1. Demanding or claiming a posi-
tion of distinction or merit, esp. when unjustified. 2. Making an
extravagant outward show. —pretentiously adv. —preten-
tiousness n.

preterit or preterite (prē'tər-it) adj. [ME < Ofr. < Lat. praeter-
itus, p.p. of praeterire, to go by: praeter, beyond (comp. of praee, before) + ire, to go.] Denoting the verb tense expressing or
describing a past or completed action or state. —n. 1. The verb form
expressing or describing a past or completed action or condition:
PAST TENSE. 2. A verb in the preterit form.

preterition (prē'tər-ish'on) n. [Lat. praeteritio < Lat. praeter-
ire, to go by. —see PRETERIT.] 1. An act of passing by, ignoring, or
omitting. 2. Law. Neglect of a testator to mention a legal heir in his
or her will. 3. The Calvinist doctrine that God neglected to designate
those who would be damned, determining only the elect.

preterm (prē'tər-mit) vt. -mitted, -mitting, -mits. [Lat.
praetermittere: praeter, beyond (comp. of praee, before) + mittere,
to let go.] 1. To ignore deliberately or permit to pass unnoticed or
unmentioned. 2. To fail to do or include: OMIT. 3. To interrupt or
terminate. —pretermis'ion (-mish'on) n. —pretermitt'ion n.
preternatural (prē'tər-nāch'or-əl, -nāch'or-əl) adj. [Med. Lat.
praeternaturalis: Lat. praeter, beyond (comp. of praee, before) + Lat.
natura, nature.] 1. Beyond the normal course of nature: ABNORMAL.
2. Transcending the natural or material order: SUPERNATURAL.
—preternaturalism n. —preternaturally adv. —pre-
nat'uralness n.

pretest (prē'tēst) n. 1. a. A test given to determine whether a
class is adequately prepared for a new course. b. The condition of a
sample before experimental modification. 2. Advance testing of
something, as a questionnaire, product, or idea. —vt. & vi. (prē'tēst)
-tested, -testing, -tests. To subject to or conduct a pretest.

pretext (prē'tēkst) n. [Lat. praetextum < p.p. of praetextere, to
disguise: praee, before + texere, to weave.] Ostensible purpose:
EXCUSE. —vt. -texted, -texting, -texts. To allege as an excuse.

pretreat (prē'trēt) vt. -treated, -treating, -treats. To treat in
advance. —pretreatment n.

pretorial (prē'trī'or-əl, -trī'or-əl) adj. Existing or taking place before a trial
< a pretrial conference >

prettify (prē'tīfī) vt. -fied, -fying, -fies. To make pretty.
—prettification n. —prettifier n.

pretty (prē'tī) adj. -tier, -tiest. [ME pretty, clever, fine < OE
prættig, cunning < prætt, trick.] 1. Pleasing or attractive. esp. in a
graceful or delicate way. 2. Excellent; good. 3. Archaic. Elegant; fine.
4. Effeminate. 5. Informal. Considerable in size or extent < a pretty
business deal > —adv. 1. To a fair degree: MODERATELY < a pretty
fair skater > 2. Regional. Pleasingly; prettily. —n., pl. -ties. One that
is pretty. —vt. -tied, -tying, -ties. Informal. To make pretty
< pretty up the apartment > —sitting pretty. Informal. In favor-
able circumstances. —prettily adv. —prettiness n.

pre-tuberculous (prē'tū-bər'kyū-ləs, -tyū-b-) adj. Relating to le-
sions of tuberculosis occurring before the actual development of the
disease.

pretzel (prē'tsəl) n. [G. < OHG brezitella < Lat. braccium, arm <
Gk. brachion.] A glazed biscuit salted on the outside and usu. baked
in the shape of a loose knot or stick.

prevail (prē-vā) vt. -valled, -vailing, -vails. [ME prevayllen <
Lat. praevallere, to be stronger: praee, beyond + valere, to be strong.]
1. To be greater in influence or strength: TRIUMPH < prevailed over
many adverse conditions > 2. To be or become effective: WIN OUT.
3. To be most frequent or common: PREDOMINATE. 4. To be in cur-
rent force, use, or effect. —prevail on (or upon). To persuade suc-
cessfully < prevailed on us to go to the lecture > —prevailer n.

prevailing (prē-vā'ling) adj. 1. Most frequent or common: PRE-
DOMINANT. 2. Generally current: WIDESPREAD. —prevailingly
adv. —prevailingness n.

*syns: PREVAILING, CURRENT, PREVALENT, REGNANT, RIFE,
WIDESPREAD adj. core meaning: most commonly existing or encoun-
tered at a given time < the prevailing views in astrophysics >

prevailent (prē-vā'lent) adj. [Lat. praevalens, praevaleant, p.p. of
praevallere, to be stronger. —see PREVAIL.] Widely existing, ac-
cepted, or practiced. —prevailence n. —prevailently adv.

prevaricate (prē-vār'ikāt) vi. -cated, -cating, -cates. [Lat.
prevaricare, praevaticat: praee, before + varicare, to straddle <
varicus, straddling < varus, bent.] To stray from or evade the truth:
equivocate. —prevarication n. —prevaricator n.

prevence (prē-vēns) n. 1. The act or state of being antece-
dent or preventive. 2. Attention to another's needs.

prevenient (prē-vēn'iant) adj. [Lat. praeveniens, praeveniens,
p.p. of praevnire, to precede: praee, before + venire, to come.]
1. Antecedent. 2. Anticipatory. —preveniently adv.

prevent (prē-vēnt) v. -vented, -venting, -vents. [ME preven-
ten, to anticipate < Lat. praevnire: praee, before + venire, to
come.] —vt. 1. To keep from happening: AVERT. 2. To keep (some-
one) from doing something: IMPEDE < prevented me from playing >
3. To anticipate or counter in advance. 4. Archaic. To come before:
PRECEDE. —vi. To present an obstacle < There will be a game if noth-
ing prevents > —prevent'ability, prevent'ibility n. —pre-
vent'able, prevent'ible adj. —prevent'er n. —preven-
tion (-vən'shən) n.

preventive (prē-vēnt'iv) adj. & n. var. of PREVENTIVE.
preventive (prē-vēnt'iv) also preventative (-tā-tiv) —adj.
1. Intended or used to hinder or prevent. 2. Med. Thwarting or ward-
ing off illness or disease: PROPHYLACTIC. —n. 1. Something that pre-
vents: OBSTACLE. 2. Med. Something for warding off illness.

—preventively adv. —preventiveness n.
preventive detention n. Pretrial imprisonment without the
right to bail of one accused of a felony and judged dangerous to
society.

pre-view also pre-vue (prē-vyū) —n. 1. An advance showing, as
of a film, to an invited audience before public presentation. 2. An
advance viewing or exhibition, esp. the presentation of several scenes
advertising a forthcoming film. 3. An introductory or limited experi-
ence. —vt. -viewed, -viewing, -views also -vued, -vuing,
-vues. To exhibit or view in advance.

previous (prē-vyūs) adj. [Lat. praevius, going before: praee, be-
fore + via, way.] 1. Existing or happening prior to something else in
time or order: ANTECEDENT. 2. Informal. Hasty; premature. —pre-
viously adv. —previousness n.

previous question n. The motion in parliamentary procedure
to take an immediate vote on the main question under consideration
or on any other questions so designated.

previous to prep. Prior to: BEFORE.

previse (prē-vīz) vt. -vised, -vising, -vises. [Lat. praevidere,
praevise: praee, before + videre, to see.] 1. To foresee. 2. To notify
ahead of time. —prevision (-vīzh'n) n. —previsional, prev-
isionary (-ā-nēr-ē) adj. —previsor n.

pre-vo-callic (prē-vō-kāl'ik) adj. Coming before a vowel.

pre-vocational (prē-vō-kā'shā-nəl) adj. Of or relating to instruc-
tion given in preparation for vocational school.

pre-view (prē-vyū) n. & v. var. of PREVIEW.

pre-war (prē-wōr) adj. Existing or taking place before a war.

prexy (prēks) n., pl. -ies. [Shortening and alteration of PRE-
sIDENT.] Slang. A president, esp. of a college or university.

prey (prē) n. [ME preie < Ofr. < Lat. praeda.] 1. A creature hunted
or caught for food: QUARRY. 2. A victim. 3. An act of preying —vi.
preyed, preying, preys. 1. To hunt, catch, or eat as prey < Foxes
prey on chickens > 2. To victimize or make a profit at someone
else's expense. 3. To plunder; pillage. 4. To exert a baneful or injuri-
ous effect < Guilt preyed upon my mind > —preyer n.

Príam (prē'am) n. [Lat. Priamus < Gk. Priamos.] Gk. Myth. King
of Troy, the father of Paris and Hector, who was killed when the
Greeks captured his city.

Príapic (prē'āp'ik, -āp'ik) also príap'ean (prē'ā-pē'an) adj. [
PRIAPUS.] Phallic.

príapism (prē'āp'iz'm) n. [Fr. priapisme < LLat. priapismus <
Gk. priapismos < priapizein, to have an erection < Priapos, Priapus.]
Persistent, usu. painful erection of the penis, esp. due to disease.

Príapus (prē'āp'os) n. [Lat. < Gk. Priapos.] 1. Priapus. Gk. &
Rom. Myth. The god of procreation, guardian of vineyards and gar-
dens, and personification of the erect phallus. 2. An image of Pri-
apus, often used in ancient gardens as a scarecrow. 3. A phallic
representation.

price (prís) n. [ME pris < Ofr. < Lat. pretium.] 1. The sum of
money or goods asked or given for something. 2. The cost at which
something is obtained. 3. The cost of bribing someone. 4. A reward
offered for the killing or capture of a person. 5. Value: worth. —vt.

priced, pricing, prices. 1. To set a price for < socks priced at
\$50 > 2. To find out the price of < spent the day pricing cars >
—price out of the market. To charge so much for goods or serv-
ices that people no longer buy or use them.

price cutting n. Reduction of retail prices to a level so low as to
eliminate competition.

price-earnings ratio (prís'ūr'níngz) n. The ratio of a common
stock's market price to its earnings per share, used as an indicator of
a corporation's profitability.

price index n. A number relating prices of a group of commodi-
ties to their prices during an arbitrarily chosen base period.

price-less (prís'lis) adj. 1. Of inestimable worth: INVALUABLE.
2. Highly amusing, absurd, or odd.

price tag n. 1. A label on a piece of merchandise showing its price.
2. Cost: price.

price war n. A period of sharp competition among businesses in
which each competitor tries to cut retail prices below those of the
others.

príce-y (prís'ē) adj. -ier, -iest. Informal. Expensive.

prick (prík) n. [ME < OE prica, puncture.] 1. a. An act of piercing
or pricking. b. The sensation of being pierced or pricked. 2. A pain-
ful or stinging feeling of remorse or sorrow. 3. A small mark or punc-
ture made by a pointed object. 4. A hare's track or footprint. 5. A
pointed object, as an ice pick or thorn. —v. pricked, pricking,
pricks. —vt. 1. To puncture lightly. 2. To sting with an emotional
or mental pang. 3. To impel: incite < "My duty pricks me on" —
Shakespeare > 4. To mark on a surface by means of small punctures
< prick a design on leather > 5. Naut. To measure with dividers on
a chart. 6. To pierce the quick of (a horse's hoof) while shoeing.
7. To transplant (seedlings) before a final planting. —vi. 1. To pierce
or puncture something. 2. To feel a stinging or pricking sensation.
3. To ride at a gallop. 4. To point upward. —prick up (one's) ears.
To begin to listen attentively.

prícker (prík'ər) n. 1. One that pricks. 2. A pricking tool. 3. A
prickle or thorn.

príck-et (prík'it) n. [ME priket < prik, prick < OE prica, punc-
ture.] 1. a. A small point or spike for holding a candle upright. b. A
candlestick with such a spike. 2. A buck in its second year, prior to
the branching of its horns.

príck-le (prík'əl) n. [ME prikel < OE pricel.] 1. A small sharp
point, spine, or thorn. 2. A tingling or pricking sensation. —v. -led,
-ling, -les. —vt. 1. To prick with or as if with a thorn. 2. To cause a
tingling or pricking sensation in. —vi. 1. To feel a tingling or pricking
sensation. 2. To stand up like prickles.

príck-ly (prík'ē) adj. -lier, -liest. 1. Having prickles. 2. Tingling:
smarting. 3. Irritable. —príck-li-ness n.

príckly ash n. An aromatic shrub or small tree, Zanthoxylum
americanum of eastern North America, with prickly stems and
feathery leaves.

príckly heat n. Miliaria.

príckly pear n. 1. Any of various cacti of the genus Opuntia, with
bristly flattened or cylindrical joints, showy, usu. yellow flowers, and
ovoid, occas. edible fruit. 2. The fruit of a prickly pear.

príckly poppy n. Any of various plants of the genus Argemone
chiefly of tropical America, with large yellow or white flowers and
prickly leaves, stems, and pods.

prícky (prík'ē) adj. -ier, -iest. Prickly.

príde (príd) n. [ME < OE prýde < príd, proud < Ofr.] 1. A sense of
one's own proper value or dignity: SELF-RESPECT. 2. Pleasure or sat-
isfaction taken in one's work, achievements, or possessions. 3. a. A
source of pride < These soldiers were their country's pride > b. The
most successful or thriving condition: PRIME < the pride of youth >
4. a. An overly high opinion of oneself: CONCEPT. b. Consideration
or personification of this condition as the first of the seven cardinal
sins. 5. Mettle or spirit in horses. 6. A group of lions. —v. prided,
priding, prides. —vt. To esteem (oneself) for < I pride myself on
this cabinetwork > —vi. To indulge in self-esteem. —prideful adj.
—pridefully adv. —pridefulness n.

príe-díeu (prē-dyōz) n., pl. -dieux or -dieux (-dyōz') [Fr. prie
Dieu, pray God.] A low desk with space for a book above and with a
foot piece below for kneeling in prayer.

príe-also prýer (prē'ər) n. One who prides.

priest (prést) n. [ME preost < OE preost < Vlat. *prester < LLat.
presbyter. —see PRESBYTER.] 1. A member of the second grade of
clergy ranking below a bishop but over a deacon and having author-
ity to pronounce absolution and administer all sacraments save that
of ordination in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican,
Armenian, and separated Catholic hierarchies. 2. A non-Catholic
cleric. 3. One whose role is considered comparable to that of a priest
< computers and their priests > —vt. priested, priesting.

priests. To ordain or admit to the priesthood. —priesthood n.
A word history: Priest and presbyter are both descended from the
Greek word presbuteros, literally "elder," the comparative form of
presbus, "old man." The Greek word was used in early Christian
writing to denote a particular order of Christian minister. Presbu-